

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL VICE UNCLAS)

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN NATIONALIST FACTIONS TO HOLD UNITY TALKS -
ZANU LEADER CRITICIZES SMITH'S OFFER

REF: (A) LUSAKA 2378 (NOTAL) (B) LUSAKA 2580, (C) LUSAKA
2319 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ZAMBIAN PRESS SEPTEMBER 28 HEADLINES OPENING OF
UNITY TALKS BETWEEN ZANU AND ZAPU REPRESENTATIVES IN LUSAKA
SEPTEMBER 28. ZANU SPOKESMAN, ROBERT MUGABE, AND ZAPU DEPUTY
SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY GEORGE SILUNDIKA,
CONFIRMED UNITY TALKS WOULD COMMENCE SEPTEMBER 28 AND
EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THE TALKS WOULD CULMINATE IN THE FORMA-
TION OF ONE NATIONAL ARMY FOR THE FINAL PUSH AGAINST REBEL
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RHODESIA. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE ROBERT MUGABE IS QUOTED

AS SAYING "SMITH'S PROPOSALS IN THEIR PRESENT FORM ARE "OUT-RAGEOUS" AND UNACCEPTABLE TO NATIONALIST CADRES. MUGABE SAID THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WANT A MOZAMBIQAN-STYLE INTERIM-GOVERNMENT IN WHICH FRELIMO TROOPS MOVED IN AND TOOK OVER THE REINS OF THE DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM THE PORTUGUESE. END SUMMARY/;

1. ZANU-ZAPU UNITY TALKS ARE TO COMMENCE IN LUSAKA SEPTEMBER 29 FOLLOWING INFORMAL TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO FACTIONS HELD IN LUSAKA SEPTEMBER 28. ROBERT MUGABE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ZANU, WILL MEET WITH ZAPU REPRESENTATIVES JASON MOYO, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, AND GEORGE SILUNDIKA, ZAPU DEPUTY SECRETARY OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF UNITY TALKS IS TO CONSIDER THE MECHANISMS OF RE-ESTABLISHING A MILITARY ALLIANCE AFTER WHICH THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF UNIFICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED. IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS ZAPU REPRESENTATIVE SILUNDIKA MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: ZAPU WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTION FROM NKOMO (REFTEL A) TO HOLD TALKS WITH ZANU TO ELIMINATE TENSIONS WHICH EXIST IN ZIPA. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT A SENSE OF PATRIOTISM WILL PREVAIL ON BOTH SIDES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS URGENT AND ESSENTIAL NATIONAL OBJECTIVE. "WE WANT TO BUILD A NATIONAL ARMY WHOSE TASK WILL BE TO PRESS ON THE ARMED STRUGGLE TO THE TOTAL DEFEAT OF THE RACIAL OPPRESSORS." SILUNDIKA ADDED, "WE ARE GOING INTO THIS WITH A COMPLETE DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED" AND APPEALED TO ALL ZIMBABWEANS IN AND OUT OF RHODESIA TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE.

2. MUGABE OF ZANU ACKNOWLEDGED THE FAILURE OF ZIPA AND ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE FACT ZANU AND ZAPU CADRES WERE TRAINED IN TOTALLY DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE. THE MEETING WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING BACK ZAPU CADRES WHO HAD LEFT ZIPA FOLLOWING DIFFERENCES WITH THEIR ZANU COLLEAGUES. MAGUBE STATED, "WE ARE ALSO GOING TO DISCUSS JOINTLY THE PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED BY SMITH AND THE STATEMENT OF THE FIVE PRESIDENTS (REFTEL B)." IN REPLY TO A QUESTION REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR THE MEETING MUGABE REPLIED, "I AM HOPEFUL THAT AT LEAST MILITARY UNITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED BECAUSE THIS IS OUR PRIORITY. WE MUST BRING OUR FORCES TOGETHER BECAUSE WE NEED THEM TO SHORTEN THE TIME TO OUR INDEPENDENCE."

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3. ON OTHER ISSUES MUGABE INDICATED THE ZANU-ZAPU CONSULTATION DOES NOTNILOSE THE DOOR TO CONSULTATION WITH "OTHER GROUPS" WHO WOULD LIKE TO MEET HIM. MUGABE IN AN ATTEMPT TO MEND FENCES WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA, AFTER ATTACKING HIM ON A BBC INTERVIEW FOR STALLING THE ARMED STRUGGLE BY THE DETENTION OF ZANU MEMBERS (REFTEL C) SAID "WE ARE NOT HOSTILE TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA AS A PERSON. I HOLD HIM IN GREAT ESTEEM

AND I HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT IN MY MIND. ALTHOUGH WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE DETENTION OF OUR MEMBERS THIS SHOULD NOT DISTURB OUR RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA. WE WOULD LIKE TO NORMALIZE OUR RELATIONSHIPS."

4. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE ROBERT MUGABE SAID THE LIBERATION CADRES MUST TAKE OVER THE RHODESIAN ARMY DURING THE PROPOSED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, OTHERWISE THE PROPOSALS IN THEIR PRESENT FORM ARE "OUTRAGEOUS" AND UNACCEPTABLE. MUGABE ADDED THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WANT A MOZAMBIQUE-STYLE INTERIM-GOVERNMENT AS WHEN FRELIMO TROOPS MOVED IN AND TOOK OVER THE REINS OF THE DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM THE PORTUGUESE. ATTACKING THE PROPOSED EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT (SIC) MUGABE NOTED BLACKS OUT NUMBER THE WHITES BY 25 TO ONE AND HIS GROUP WANTS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. MUGABE OBSERVED THAT THE TYPE OF PARLIAMENT (SIC) THAT IS SET UP DURING OR AFTER THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT -- IF IT DOES NOT CONTROL THE ARMY IT IS A SHAM -- IT IS HOLLOW BECAUSE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE MILITARY WILL NOT TOPPLE THE TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION AT ANY TIME. ZANU'S POSITION IS THAT THERE MUST BE A DISINTEGRATION OF SMITH'S ARMY POWER. MUGABE, PROFESSING IGNORANCE OF THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE SMITH PROPOSALS, OBSERVED " . . . WHOEVER WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE PROPOSALS MUST HAVE ERRED TO THINK WE SHALL ACCEPT THEM AS THEY ARE." MUGABE DISMISSED OISHOP SITHOLE AS A POLITICAL FORCE; "MR. SITHOLE CEASED TO BE PRESIDENT OF ZANU A LONG TIME AGO; IF HE WANTS TO REJOIN HIS APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ZANU LIKE ANY OTHER APPLICANT." THE MUZOREWA-LED ANC FACTION WAS DESCRIBED BY MUGABE AS "TOOTHLESS" BECAUSE IT HAS NO ARMY; THE ARMED STRUGGLE IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE ANC. HOWEVER, IF THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS FOR MAJORITY RULE SUCCEEDED AND A CONFERENCE WERE CONVENED BY GREAT BRITAIN OUTSIDE RHODESIA, THEN MUZOREWA
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MIGHT HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY.

5. COMMENT: UNITY TALKS BETWEEN ZANU/MUGABE/ZIPA AND ZAPU/NKOMO ARE IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS. PRESSURE BEGAN TO BUILD AT DAR ES SALAAM MEETING, SEPT 6 - 7 AND WAS CONTINUED DURING MEETING OF FRONTLINE FIVE AT LUSAKA THIS WEEKEND. AGREEMENT BY THE NATIONALIST TO SOME SORT OF UNITED FRONT IS RECOGNIZED NOW MORE THAN EVER AS NECESSARY IF A MEANINGFUL RESPONSE TO THE "SMITH" PROPOSAL IS TO BE MADE. THIS HAS BEEN A CONSTANT THEME IN EDITORIALS APPEARING IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LUSAKA PRESS OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS. MUGABE, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, HAS MAINTAINED CONTACTS WITH THE ZAPU LEADERSHIP, ESPECIALLY WITH JASON MOYO. THIS MAY HELP THE TWO ELEMENTS TO PATCH SOMETHING TOGETHER. WHILE UNITY TALKS

GO ON HERE, NKOMO, WE UNDERSTAND, IS IN BULAWAYO CONSULTING
WITH HIS PARTY FAITHFUL TO OBTAIN THEIR AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE
WITH ZANU AND WITH SMITH.
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